

Bennion Pools Nature Area Walk, Leicester

Start location: Beaumont Lodge shops, Astill Lodge Road, Leicester, LE4 1EF.

Time taken: 30 minutes (steady, pace)* **Distance:** 1 mile 1.6 km **Circular route**
Allow longer for wildlife spotting.

Description:

This route heads to Bennion Pools Nature Area, a little-known green space in Beaumont Leys, on the north-west edge of Leicester. With woodland, grassland and pond habitats this is a great location to relax with nature. The route directions take you via Beaumont Lodge and Churchbell Way cycle path, then meanders around the pools. However, you may prefer to explore the paths in the nature area at will. For this reason, the arrows show the entry and exit route only and leave you to choose your preferred route around the pools.



- Main route
- Alternative route
- Stage / waypoint
- Point of interest

*Time is calculated at a steady pace of 2mph, if walked without stopping. Allow extra time to look at points of interest and read the information.

This route was developed by staff and volunteers for Leicester City Council:
www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/walks



Walk starts:

Beaumont Lodge shops, Astill Lodge Road, Beaumont Leys, LE4 1EF.

There is a small car park at Beaumont Lodge shops. Astill Lodge Road is also served by buses. To plan your journey visit: www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk.

Safety tips:

- Take care crossing the car park near the shops.
- Watch for cyclists along Churchbell Way, a popular cycle route.
- In some places paths may be cracked or uneven. Bennion Pools Nature Area includes soft paths which can be muddy after rain.
- The pools are very appealing but take care near the water's edge, especially with young children.
- The nature area is a quiet location. Take care not to disturb the wildlife and also other users of this area, including anglers.

Route directions:

1. Start from the Beaumont Lodge shops on Astill Lodge Road. Take the path beside the pharmacy which run alongside the car park. Pass houses to your left.
2. Just before Heatherbrook Surgery, bear right to cross the road. Head towards the building on the other side (Beaumont Lodge), then take the path down the side of it, with railings to your right. At the path junction bear left and pass the entrance to Beaumont Lodge. Continue towards and past the litter bin then follow the path ahead. Pass a path to the right (by a log). You'll be returning this way later.
3. Reach a path junction. Go right here, signed 'Churchbell Way'. Take care, this path is shared with cyclists. It runs along the edge of the Bennion Pools Nature Area.

Watch and listen for nature here – if you're lucky you might see or hear wildlife, including the Great Spotted Woodpecker and other birds. Looking left, there are some great views from Churchbell Way over to Bradgate Park.

4. At the end of Churchbell Way pass the metal gates. Exit on Redruth Road and turn right. Shortly, turn right again into Bennion Pools Nature Area. Turn left to walk beside the hedge.

Bennion Pools Nature Area

Historically, there was once a large medieval deer park in this part of Leicestershire. The Bennion Pools area was one small part of this. In the late 17th century it became part of the agricultural land belonging to Beaumont Lodge Farm. The pools themselves are relatively recent. The Lower Pool (or carp lake) was constructed in the 1960s, while the Upper Pool (or Silver Fish pool) was constructed in 2004.

5. Turn right at the path junction by the brown noticeboard. Continue to the blue Bennion Pools Nature Area map.

From here, these directions take you on a meandering route through the nature area, passing both pools in turn. Alternatively, you may prefer to explore at will, then return (via Beaumont Lodge) to the start.

At the junction by the map, turn right. At the bin, keep right to take the path around the upper pond. Continue ahead. Pass a fishing platform over the pond (for wheelchair users).

In spring and summer wildfowl nest at Bennion Pools. You can often see young birds by the water's edge. Take care not to disturb them!

6. At the top of the upper pond, pass a litter bin and path on your right. After a bench, spot the information board on the left telling you about pond life. Continue beside the pond. After the next litter bin turn left by another information board. This one is about frogs, toads and newts.
7. Continue with the lower pond to your right. At the path junction by the bin, turn right. At the blue noticeboard turn right to walk along the edge of the lower pond.
8. Pass the information board on the left about the woodland habitat. Continue ahead on the main path. At the fork, bear right. Continue ahead. Go straight ahead at the path junction beside the rock.
9. After a wooden post turn left and continue past a blue noticeboard. Pass an information board about the meadows and grasslands. After another blue board and bin, exit Bennion Pools Nature Area and turn left.
10. Return past Beaumont Lodge. Bear right around the building. Cross the carpark with care. Turn left on the far side to return to the shops.

Well done for completing this route – we hope you've enjoyed exploring Leicester on foot! You can find more routes on the Choose How You Move website



Additional Information

Friends of Bennion Pools Nature Area:

<https://walk4life.info/sites/default/files/walkdocs/walkdoc-16420.pdf>

Acknowledgements : Route researched and developed by staff and volunteers for Leicester City Council.

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